

GETHSEMANE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

News from 4040 N. 108th Street, Omaha, NE 68164
July, 2017



The Purpose of the Bible

Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. - Romans 15:4

Every book has a purpose. Whether it's a cookbook, music book, history book, novel, science book, biography, or even a comic book, every book has a reason. So what is the purpose of the best-selling book in the world, the Bible?

The Bible imparts wisdom, and has been used in many lands during various ages as a key educational textbook. While this is useful, it is *not* the real purpose of the Bible.

The Bible proclaims the Creator's natural law for his creatures. Guided by its directives, people can live productive and happy lives, caring about others. While this is very beneficial, it is *not* the real purpose of the Bible.

Many claim the Bible teaches us how to live according to God's commands so we can gain his favor. This common misunderstanding is certainly *not* the purpose of the Bible. Rather, the Bible clearly proclaims and demonstrates that we cannot keep God's commands to gain his favor for salvation.

God's answer to this dilemma is the *REAL* purpose of the Bible. According to his eternal plan

Out of town for the weekend?

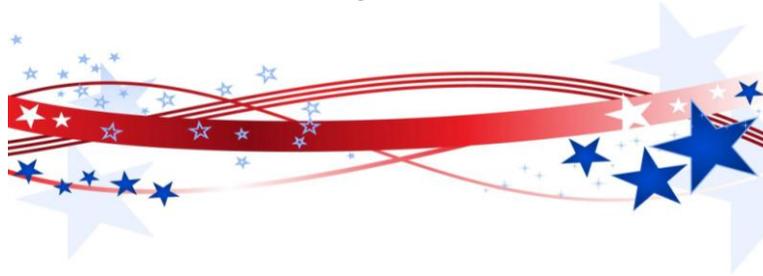
Monday evening worship is available at our sister congregation, Living Hope, located on 168th Street just north of Q from now through Labor Day. The services start at 7 p.m.
All are welcome!

God sent his own perfect Son, Jesus, to live in obedience to all of God's commands, and to suffer the punishment for our wrongs against God's commands by his death on the cross. Jesus gained God's favor for all of us!

The apostle Paul wrote, "Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

Just before this verse, Paul quoted from what was written in the past, about a thousand years before Jesus was born: "The insults of those who insult you fall on me" (Psalm 69:9). Paul described how that Psalm verse speaks of Jesus Christ, who did not come to please himself, but came to do the Father's will. In his suffering and death Jesus voluntarily bore all people's hostility toward God.

This is the amazing purpose of the Bible. It points to Jesus Christ and describes in detail his work of salvation. It is God's word. It is his eternal plan of salvation for sinners. This is what truly teaches us, encourages us, grants us endurance and hope! This is *THE* purpose of the Bible—to show sinners their salvation in Jesus Christ alone. So great is God's love for us!



FOOLISH

Galatians 3:1-5

You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified. I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? Have you suffered so much for nothing -- if it really was for nothing? Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?

Ouch!

These are harsh words and yet they are exactly the words these Galatians needed to hear. With his pen Paul grabs the shoulders of these Galatians and tries to shake some sense into them asking, "What's gotten into you?" Paul is dumbfounded that people who knew and believed the Gospel of free forgiveness in Christ would even consider adding good works to salvation. Paul is calling them to consider their own conversions. Were they brought to faith by something they had done or by what the Holy Spirit had done through Paul's preaching? The answer was obvious - obvious to Paul and obvious to the Galatians. Faith came from hearing the message not by eating kosher foods.

Paul wanted these Galatians to realize that they had it all - faith in Christ, forgiveness in Christ, freedom in Christ. They had it all without having to lift a finger - God had lifted their eyes of faith to Christ. After pointing that out Paul then asks, why would you want to go back to a religion of works with no certainty, no Christ and no forgiveness? The answer again was obvious.

Thank God that through our ears of faith the answer is obvious to us as well. All glory, credit, and praise belong to God for our conversion. All glory, credit, and praise belong to God for our salvation. May we always embrace that and may we never forget that.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, guard me against the temptations of my own sinful nature that want to add works to your free gifts. Amen.

Pastor Helwig

SCHOOL NEWS

Summer greetings to you all!

Boy, the end of June comes up on us quickly. Pretty much all of the 2016-17 school year has been wrapped up. Our main efforts right now have turned to VBS and 2017-18. Last month, my newsletter focused on the cooperation it takes to operate a Lutheran Elementary School. This month, I'm looking ahead to the end of July when our Nebraska LES teachers and principals will gather for our annual summer in-service. This year's in-service will be focusing on each person's

individual strengths and how that ties together as a team. This meeting will not only help us look at who we are in terms of strengths (and challenge areas), but those results will drive conversations on our faculty team. Just as a congregation works as a team with its school, so our teachers (and staff) work as a team. In a few weeks this in-service will help us look at building a foundation of trust, growing even through conflicts, building commitment and accountability, and focusing on results. May God bless that effort as we then will be ready for making our home visits and kicking off the 2017-18 school year.

The 2017-18 school year will mark 70 years of God's grace in operating an elementary school that connects students and families to the Word of God and their Savior Jesus. God be praised for this upcoming milestone!

Next month we'll talk about the new school year's theme - We Follow the Good Shepherd.

Mr. Pederson

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Many thanks to those who attended the Z's farewell and/or moving day. They really appreciated it. The Z's made it safely to Wisconsin last weekend. May God bless their transitions to a new home, new ministry, and new adventures.

VBS plans are wrapping up for our June 26 kickoff. We look forward to sharing Jesus with all the students we will see during the week - especially guests and friends from our community. Many thanks to everyone who has helped us get our annual VBS ready this year.

2017-18 GLS families should be receiving information for the new school year soon. Families transferring from GLS should contact their new school to get student records transferred right away. Enrollment is still open for GLS for the upcoming year. Please contact Mr. Schmidt or Mr. Pederson if you are interested OR if you know of someone else who is!

The fall soccer season is coming up in mid-August, but our sign-up is approaching in mid-July. K-8 students interested in playing soccer are welcomed! Parents can contact Mr. Pederson AND/OR be on the lookout for information. The season would start around AUG 19.



(Organization of Wels Lutheran Seniors)

Join us for food fellowship and fun at Soaring Wings Vineyard in Springfield on July 9th at 2 p.m. There will be music, and we will have shelters set up so bring a lawn chair. You can purchase wine or beer or bring water. Food will be provided. If you need a ride please contact Dick or Sandy ASAP!

Membership is free to join OWLS until January! Please join in the fun!

Sandy T, Secretary



(Lutheran Women's Missionary Society)

“God Bless our Native Land”

The 54th Annual LWMS Convention was held in Orlando, Florida, and Joy R attended from our church. Look for a summary of the events in the August newsletter. ☺

Start saving your pill bottles! CAMM would like to start collecting them again in the fall. Look for more information on when we will be collecting them this fall.

The Fall Rally will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Norfolk on Saturday, October 7th. The guest speaker will be John Sebald, who will speak on "Truth in Love Ministry" (Outreach to Mormons).

The new Befriend a Missionaries information has arrived! We will be putting together gifts for them in September. The missionaries are:

- Home Missions-The work being done with the Hmong Mission, based out of Manitowoc, WI; Titus Lee.
- World Missions-One Latin America, Guanajuato, Mexico; Pastor Joel Sutton.

July Prayer Requests

- Our new Befriend a Missionaries
- The work being done by the ladies in the LWMS Central Office.
- The work being done by the LWMS Board members.

Leslie B
~Reporter



(Nebraska Ev. Lutheran High School)

- School News:

- Call News
 - Pastor Haakenson accepted a Call to develop a Hispanic ministry in Waukegon, Illinois. We thank him for his four years of service to Nebraska Lutheran. We pray for him and Monica and the girls as they prepare to move this summer.
 - The NELHS Board of Control will be meeting on July 9 to issue a call for a new campus pastor. We pray for them as they seek to fill this important position.
- We welcomed 80 elementary students to our "All-Sports Camp" June 11-14. Students enjoyed three days of sports, fun, and dorm life. This is the second highest number of students to ever attend this camp, and we pray that all of them will attend Nebraska Lutheran someday.
- We still have **12 dorm rooms** that need to be painted in our "adopt a room" program. The dorm rooms that have been painted look fantastic! Let's get these last dorm rooms finished so our tutors can get the rooms prepared for the students who will start arriving August 6. Contact Mr. Otte at motte@nelhs.org if you need more information or want to volunteer.
- "This is Our School" Campaign
As of June 22, we have **34 donors** supporting our school monthly with **\$2,490** for a total of **\$29,880** a year. Please pray about this and consider making Nebraska Lutheran your school by supporting it with a monthly donation. Our goal is to get over 100 donors giving \$100,000 annually to the high school. These funds are already beginning to impact our day to day ministry! Please consider supporting this campaign. You can start your monthly donation at www.nelhs.org.

- Upcoming events:

- July 15: Work Day at NELHS (cleaning, weeding, trimming, painting, etc.. will all be done)
- July 29: Tuition Assistance Golf Outing at Eldorado Hills Golf Course in Norfolk. Contact Benjy Wells at bwells@nelhs.org for more information. We need more golfers and more hole sponsors!

- Recruitment: Our goal is 40 new students for next year. So far, **30** have applied (20 freshmen, 5 sophomores, 3 juniors, and 2 seniors). **Many** families are still considering NELHS. Let's pray that many of them choose NELHS! If you know of a family whom we can contact to tell about our ministry, please let Administrator Mark Otte know at motte@nelhs.org or call 402-728-5236. Keep praying!

Mark O, Administrator

10th Annual NELHS Golf Classic

"Tee it up for Tuition Assistance"



Please join us for our tenth annual NELHS Golf Classic to be held at Eldorado Hills Golf Course in Norfolk on Saturday, July 29th.

The money raised for this tournament will go towards our Tuition Assistance Program. The cost per golfer includes 18 holes of golf, a cart, dinner and more! The deadline to submit your team is Monday, July 17th. If you are unable to get a team together we will do our best to put you on a team. Any questions can be addressed to Benjy Wells via email at bwells@nelhs.org or by phone at (402) 806-7564.



Date: Saturday, July 29th
Registration: 12:00 pm
Time: 1:00 – 6:00 pm (meal and program to follow at 6:30)
Location: Eldorado Hills Golf Course (Norfolk)
Golfers: Four per team (best ball scramble format)
Cost: (team) \$360.00
Cost: (individual) \$90.00 (\$20.00 for meal only)
Prizes: Yes! (flag prizes and door prizes)

Mail your entry form with payment, payable to NE Lutheran High School, to:
 Nebraska Lutheran High School
 c/o Benjy Wells, Tournament Director
 203 Kendall Street
 Waco, NE 68460

DEACONS

Thank you to our volunteers who are keeping up with the mowing and property maintenance. You are very much appreciated!

Now that the Zimmermann's have vacated the parsonage, plans are on hold as to how to maintain the property. At this time we will not be doing any remodeling. Stay tuned to future emails or newsletters as this develops.

Gamble's Cleaning will be stripping and waxing our floors the last week in July. We will need help moving classroom furniture on Sunday, July 23. . Emails and bulletin announcements will be sent out when it comes closer to that time.

As always, if you see something that needs to be repaired, please let the church office know. Thank you for helping us to keep the property in ship shape!

DISCIPLESHIP

Summer Sunday School

Date	Lesson	Teacher	Craft	Recess
July 2	Holiday weekend - No Sunday School			
July 9	Lost (Prodigal) Son	Doug V	Lauren B	Amy V
July 16	Persistent Widow	Heidi S	TBD	Joanna S
July 23	Hidden Treasure	Joanna S	Shonni J	Lauren B
July 30	Tenants	TBD	Sarah F	Wendee M



Vacation Bible School (VBS)

- Dates: June 26th-29th (Monday – Thursday)
- Time: 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM
- Ages: Pre-K (Potty Trained) through 5th Grade (Entering)
- Register online at GethsemaneLutheran.com or via the paper registrations located in member mailboxes or on the table in the fellowship hall.

Tuesday Women’s Bible Study

Everyone is welcomed to join us as we study together on Tuesday mornings at McDonald’s on 108th & Emmet. We begin at 6 a.m. In July, we will meet for the first time on the 11th. We are beginning the study, “Connecting Sinai to Calvary” by John Jeske. If you would like to join us, let the church office know, so we can get you a copy of the study that accompanies the book.

STEWARDSHIP



Annual Gethsemane Camping Trip

The annual Gethsemane Camping Trip will be held August 4th and 5th at Fremont State Lake’s Recreation Area. Join us for run, relaxation and a camp-side devotion. There are 2 tent spots and 1 camper spot still available. All have electric! Cost for two nights is \$47.74. Please contact the church office if interested.

GOOD SHEPHERD CALL NEWS

Pastor Dave Naumann returned the Call Good Shepherd had extended to him and will remain in Saginaw, MI. The next Call Meeting at Good Shepherd is scheduled for Monday, July 10.

Liz Koester has accepted their Call to serve as their morning Kindergarten Teacher and as an Upper Grade Departmentalized Teacher in the afternoon.

Mr. Joel Lauber accepted their Call to be their new Principal (a permanent Call) as well as Upper Grade Departmentalized Teacher (primarily grades 7-8).

Mr. Jeffery Schultz from Minocqua, WI, has accepted their Call to be an Upper Grade Departmentalized Teacher (primarily grades 5-6).

These teachers will be installed in their school opening service in August.

Please keep Good Shepherd and her ministry in your prayers. Pastor Helwig continues to serve as the vacancy pastor.



DEADLINES ARE APPROACHING FOR SUMMER CAMPS!

Rocky Mountain Christian Camp

Registration for Rocky Mountain Christian Camp is open. This year camp is running from July 15 to 22. All registrations will take place online this year. There are no forms to download. Please go to our website where they will find a link to our registration page. If we hit the max number of campers and junior counselors, applicants will be put on a waiting list, so please apply as soon as possible.

Rocky Mountain Christian Camp (RMCC), located in Leadville, Colorado gives our young people an opportunity for Christian fellowship with others of their same faith. RMCC aims to assist youth in their spiritual growth while offering them a unique camping experience in the Rocky Mountains. The camp is attended by youth from all over, including New Mexico, Utah, Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming.

Youth entering 6th grade thru 9th grade are eligible to attend as campers. Older teens who have just completed 10th grade thru 12th grade may serve as Junior Counselors, provided they have attended RMCC in the past. The cost is \$130 per person (includes all food & tents).

For more information and to register ONLINE see: <http://www.rmcc-wels.com>.

Camp Jefferson

We are once again organizing our Camp Jefferson in Fairbury, Nebraska. Our theme for camp this year is "A Mighty Fortress" (Psalm 46:1). The dates for our youth camp this year are Friday, July 28, through Sunday, July 30. The camp is for children entering grades 3 - 8 and the cost per child is \$55. Registration is open until July 7 and can be done online through our camp website:

www.welscampjefferson-welsne.org

Camp Jefferson is a three day Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Christian camp located outside of Fairbury, Nebraska. It offers children, entering third through eighth grade, an opportunity to have fun and fellowship in a safe and Christ centered camp. Our dedicated volunteer staff of adults and teens directs the activities under the leadership of the Camp Director.

The website provides online registration for campers and counselors as well as a map, camp guidelines, and frequently asked questions about camp. If you have already submitted your registration and are wondering what to do now, check out the "What Now?" page.

Payment and donations can be made by check or by paypal on the website. If you have any questions, feel free to email us at welscampjefferson@gmail.com or call Pastor Steve Kruschel at 402-745-0055.

WELS Teen Camp Jefferson

Online registration is open for this camp which will take place Sunday, July 30 through Wednesday, August 2 in Fairbury, Nebraska. Teen Camp Jefferson is for students entering 9th grade through age 19. The cost is \$65.

Encourage your teens to join us for Bible study, games, movies, sports, crafts, swimming, and more! If you have questions, please call/text 402-310-8538 or email welsteencamp@yahoo.com.

See the flyer on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall!